

REMARKS

In the above identified Office Action the Examiner has rejected claims 3 to 13, 15 and 16 as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over EP 117032, to Jae-Sung, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,794,164, to Beckert et al. Inasmuch as claim 16 is the main and only independent claim under consideration, applicants' remarks will concentrate on the rejection of claim 16 by which it will be shown that claim 16 is patentable over the cited references and that therefore the remaining rejected claims are also patentable.

First, with respect to the Examiner's comments contained in the "Response to Amendment" on page 2 of the Office Action, it is applicants' position that it is the power-on detector which determines whether the personal computer is in power-on status or not, as claimed in claim 16. As stated in claim 16, the power-on detector is connected to a power supply of the external personal computer and the microprocessor, the power-on detector detects the power-on status of the external personal computer and signals the microprocessor to control the bus switch to release the standard interface between the external personal computer and the optical data storage drive device so as to operate without the power supply of the external personal computer when the external personal computer is off, whereas when the external computer power-on status is detected, the microprocessor controls the bus

switch to resume the function of the standard interface so as to operate the optical data storage drive device through the power supply of the external personal computer. As described in paragraph 0045 of the Jae-Sung reference, detection port 37 is connected to the multimedia device to check voltage (for example, 0 volt) when the multimedia device is not in operation and make a power control terminal 39 active in accordance with the checked result. At this time, a control circuit 38 functions to block the supply of power from the adapter 36, thereby causing all components in the computer to be supplied with power from the main power supply 35. This is a different function than the function of the power-on detector and bus switch of the present invention as described above. Furthermore, the power-on detector of the present invention is used to detect the voltage of the power supply unit of a personal computer or to detect the computer's host reset signal (HRST) on the connecting bus between the personal computer and panel controller so as to confirm the power-on status of the power supply (Specification, page 6, lines 17 to 22). Detecting the computer's host reset signal is not contemplated in the Jae-Sung reference.

Also, the function of the bus switch of the present invention is to release "the standard interface between said external personal computer and said optical data storage drive device", wherein the released standard interface is ATAPI-IDE

interface of PC. This is different than the function of the control circuit 38 of Jae-Sung which controls the supply of power between the adapter 36 and the main power supply 35. In addition, the power switch button 50 of Jae-Sung is only for the purpose of switching the multimedia device power on and off, which is also different from the bus switch of the present invention.

The Examiner maintains that Jae-Sung's signal processor is comparable to the microprocessor of the present invention. The microprocessor according to the present invention controls the bus switch to release or connect the standard interface between the external personal computer and the optical data storage drive device (Specification, page 10, lines 10 to 12). It also controls the operation of the optical data storage drive device in accordance with a key-in or pre-stored instructions and the read/write of the BIOS data of an external personal computer, as in claim 16. On the other hand, Jae-Sung's signal processor discriminates on the type of data detected by the optical pickup, decodes the detected data into a format corresponding to the discriminated type and output of the decoded data as a digital signal by means of a digital/analog converter as needed (Jae-Sung, paragraph 0022). It also performs a demodulation function, error correction function and video signal/audio signal separation function (Jae-Sung, paragraph 0023). Obviously, the

functions of the instant microprocessor and Jae-Sung's signal processor are very different. Jae-Sung's signal processor is irrelevant to the detection port 37, power control 39 and control circuit 38 in that it does not control the control circuit to switch the supply of power. The microprocessor of the present application controls the bus switch to connect standard interface.

The Examiner has cited Beckert et al for the smart card reader 42 in Fig. 3 thereof. The purpose of the smart card reader 42 is to read smart cards programmed as a key to a vehicle containing encrypted driver identification that the security system uses to identify the driver before the vehicle can be started. This function is substantially different than that of the memory card reader utilized in the present invention which reads/writes the encoded video/audio signal and data from the microprocessor.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 16 is not obvious over the Jae-Sung reference in view of the Beckert et al reference and should therefore be allowed. For the same reason, claims 3 to 13 and 15 are not obvious over the Jae-Sung reference in view of the Beckert et al reference and should also be allowed.

The Examiner has also rejected claim 14 as being unpatentable over Jae-Sung and Beckert et al as applied to claim

16 and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0126703, to Kovacevic. Inasmuch as the applicants have distinguished claim 16 over the Jae-Sung and Beckert et al references above, the Kovacevic reference does not add the missing elements to the references to render either claim 16 or claim 14 unpatentable.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3 to 16 are patentable over the cited references and should be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,
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